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ESTONIAN, OTHER SHALE MINES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The Estonian shale industry has been assisted by the receipt of equipment, metal, and other materials from various sections of the USSR. More than 27 million rubles' worth of materials came from the Ukrainian SSR, 11 million rubles worth from the RSFSR, and 4.5 million rubles worth from the Armenian SSR.

Many new machines are operating in the shale mines in 1950, including KMP-1 cutting machines, STR-30 scraper conveyors, S-153 loading machines, 10-ton electric locomotives, and Karlik electric locomotives. The average length of the mine face has increased from 50 meters in 1949 to 80 meters in 1950. The average daily shale output from one mine face has increased 83 tons over 1949.

In the mines of the Estonslanets Combine, 140 workers have completed their 5-year quotas and 38 have completed the 1950 norm. Working tempo is increasing from month to month. In July, the total shale output for the combine as a whole was 3,525 tons above the January figure and amounted to 106 percent of the month plan. During June and July 1950, more than 38 trainloads above-plan shale were mined.

The Kukruse Mine is the best in the combine.(1) This mine has fulfilled the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule. Its miners pledged to fulfill the month plan by 27 August and to give the country 30,000 tons of above-plan shale. They actually completed the month plan by 19 August and had mined more than 30,000 tons of above-plan shale. They also reduced the costs of shale below that of any other mine in the Estonian SSR.(2)

On 24 August, operations were started at the ninth new, mechanized mine face in the Kiviylä Mine. All production processes at this mine face are completely mechanized. As the shale is cut from the mine face, it falls into heavy conveyers, which carry it to the mine cars. Heavy Russian-made locomotives pull the train of mine cars, and heavy dump cars are used in unloading the shale from the mine cars.

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The grading plant at the Kiviyl Mine is completely mechanized, possessing grading machines and heavy conveyers which carry the graded shale to the electric power plant and the refinery.

All machines employed in the Kiviyl Mine are made in the USSR. The daily output of shale per worker is more than 9 tons instead of the 6-ton norm.(3)

The Vivikond Mine completed the 9-month plan for shale output by 22 August, fulfilling the obligation which it had assumed in honor of Miner's Day. Workers are continuing to speed up their mining tempo and have pledged to fulfill the 1950 plan by 7 November.(4)

Mine No 1C in Yykhvi fulfilled the July plan 109 percent. When the results of the first half of 1950 were disclosed in June, this mine held last place among other mines of the Estonian shale basin. It has been failing regularly to fulfill the plan, its labor discipline was low, and breakdowns of equipment and idle periods were frequent. The miners decided to change the situation in a month and not only to fulfill the plan but to exceed it, at the same time giving to the country 1,200 tons of above-plan shale. As a result of effective efforts, they succeeded in completely carrying out their resolution and even delivered 2,700 tons of above-plan shale to the country.(5)

Slantsy Mine No 1 in Leningrad Oblast has already completed the year plan for shale output. Since 10 August, the miners have been working on their 1951 quotas. The daily output of shale has become $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as great as it previously was. Two trainloads above the plan have already been shipped to consumers. In comparison with 1949, the quality of the shale has improved and its production cost has decreased.(6)

SOURCES

1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 19 Aug 50
2. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 27 Aug 50
3. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 26 Aug 50
4. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 25 Aug 50
5. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 17 Aug 50
6. Leningradskaya Pravda, 25 Aug 50

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